REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claim 15 is new. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao (6,459,427) in view of Schneier. Although the Examiner did not identify the reference associated with Schneier, the Applicants believe the Examiner is referring to Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C, Second Edition by Bruce Schneier (ISBN: 0471117099).

With reference to independent claims 1, 5, 9, and 13, the Examiner argues that Mao teaches a method and system of modifying the PCR with conditional access messages. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Mao describes a remultiplexer that "can receive single program transport streams or multiple program transport streams through DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) ASI (Asynchronous Serial Interface) up to 270 Mbps." (column 5, lines 12-15) "Since each 6 MHZ cable channel can only fit about 27 Mbps using 64 QAM modulation, a remultiplexer is required to remultiplex the programs in order to fit into these channels." (column 5, lines 15-18) "The remultiplexer 70 can perform remultiplexing single or multiple program transport streams into multiple program transport streams at different bit rates, re-assign PID (packet ID), adjust PCR (Program Clock Reference), and modify PAT/PMT (Program Association Table/Program Map Table), and insert conditional access messages such as ECM and EMM." (column 5, lines 18-24).

Mao notes that the remultiplexer can perform various actions on a transport stream such as adjust PCR, re-assign PID, and insert conditional access messages. However, nowhere does Mao teach or suggest modifying the PCR with conditional access messages as the Examiner argues. Mao only describes inserting conditional access messages into a transport stream.
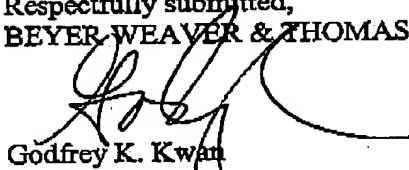
According to various embodiments, "PCR 40 is a 42 bit time stamp encoding the timing of the stream itself." (page 9, lines 10-11) Mao describes adjusting PCR. However, Mao does not teach or suggest modifying the PCR with conditional access messages.

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Schneier describes a digital signature that includes a timestamp. However, Schneier does not teach or suggest replacing a portion of the timestamp field with "part of said digital signature" as recited in the claims.

Consequently, even if there is proper motivation to combine the references, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited in the independent claims.

In light of the above remarks relating to independent claims, the remaining dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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